

Remarks

Claims 1-21 and 23-33 are pending in this application. Claim 22 has been canceled to advance prosecution.

Claim Rejections

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fang et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0104126 ("Fang") in view of Kori et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,551,929 ("Kori").

The claim recites the following limitation:

"wherein at least one of the boron-containing species and the tungsten containing precursor reactants is provided to the reaction chamber by stabilizing a flow of the reactant by diverting the flow to an exhaust port without passing through the reaction chamber; and then pressurizing a gas line leading to the reaction chamber by flowing the reactant to the gas line prior to allowing the reactant to enter the reaction chamber."

The subject matter of this claim has been previously indicated allowable in each of the three previous Office Actions. However, the Examiner now takes Official Notice that the above-recited limitations were "well-known in the art at the time of the invention."

It is submitted those of skill in the art armed with conventional wisdom would have not been directed to employ both the stabilization and pressurization operations recited and that the claim is patentable over the cited art.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's taking of Official Notice and request that the Office provide prior art support for its position that "at least one of the boron-containing species and the tungsten containing precursor reactants is provided to the reaction chamber by stabilizing a flow of the reactant by diverting the flow to an exhaust port without passing through the reaction chamber; and then pressurizing a gas line leading to the reaction chamber by flowing the reactant to the gas line prior to allowing the reactant to enter the reaction chamber" was well known in the art.

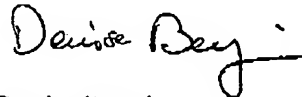
Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 22-33.

Conclusion

If any fees are due in connection with the filing this Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 500388 (Order No. NOVLP096).

Respectfully submitted,
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